

REMARKS

In the Office Action the Examiner noted that claims 1-20 are pending in the application. The Examiner allowed claims 1, 2, 5-9, and 15-19, and rejected claims 3, 4, 10-13, and 20. By this Amendment, claims 3-4, 10-13, and 20 have been amended. Thus, claims 1-20 are pending in the application. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

In item 1 on pages 2-4 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 3-4, 10-14, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,923,673, issued to Henrikson (hereinafter referred to as "Henrikson").

Claim 3 of the present invention, as amended, recites:

A serial bus interface device having a function of automatically reconstructing a topology when the device is inserted or withdrawn during operation of a serial bus, comprising a physical layer circuit serving as a physical interface to which a plurality of identification numbers are simultaneously assigned when the serial bus interface device is connected to the serial bus.

Therefore, the physical layer circuit of the present invention serves "as a physical interface to which a plurality of identification numbers are simultaneously assigned when the serial bus interface device is connected to the serial bus."

The Examiner states that "Henrikson teaches a serial bus interface device....comprising a physical layer circuit serving as a physical interface to which one or more identification numbers are assigned when the serial bus interface device is connected to the serial bus (see figure 1 and column 3 lines 28-38, physical interface 22 for connecting peripheral devices 34-44, further column 1 lines 29-35 teaches when a device is being added or removed the bus will then automatically reconfigure itself for transmitting data between the existing node. This teaching applies for reassigning identification numbers on the bus)." The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's statement that Henrikson discloses the elements of the present invention.

Henrikson discloses "[a]n IEEE 1394 serial bus network data capture and analyzer device....coupled as a device within an IEEE 1394 serial bus network for monitoring, capturing and analyzing communications between other devices over the IEEE 1394 serial bus network" (Column 2, Line 63 through Column 3, Line 1). Henrikson repeatedly refers to the capture and

analyzer unit being added to the network as a "device" (Column 3, Lines 28-38, Column 6, Lines 47-50). And "[i]f a device is so added or removed the bus will then automatically reconfigure itself for transmitting data between the then existing nodes. A node is considered a logical entity with a unique address on the bus structure. Each node provides an identification ROM, a standardized set of control registers and its own address space (Column 1, Lines 30-35). Therefore, contrary to the Examiner's statement, the physical layer circuit is obviously considered "a logical entity with a unique address," and is therefore given a single identification number. Nowhere in Henrikson is it indicated that the physical layer circuit is given more than one identification number.

This is in contrast to amended claim 3 of the present invention, in which "a plurality of identification numbers are simultaneously assigned when the serial bus interface device is connected to the serial bus." This plurality of numbers allows the simulation of more than one device in the place of the connected device, which is not possible in the disclosure of Henrikson, in which only one identification number is assigned to the device.

Therefore, Henrikson does not recite the feature in which "a plurality of identification numbers are simultaneously assigned when the serial bus interface device is connected to the serial bus." Accordingly, Henrikson does not recite every element of the Applicant's claim 3. In order for a document to anticipate a claim, the document must teach each and every element of the claim (MPEP §2131). Therefore, since Henrikson does not teach the features recited in independent claim 3, as stated above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 3 patentably distinguishes over Henrikson, and withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection is earnestly and respectfully solicited.

Claims 4 and 10-14 depend from claim 3 and include all of the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the prior art. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 4 and 10-14 also patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Independent claim 20 recites the feature of "assigning a plurality of identification numbers to a physical interface of the device simultaneously when the device is connected to the serial bus." Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 20 also patentably distinguishes over Henrikson.

Interview Summary

On October 28, 2003, the Examiner contacted counsel for the Applicant by telephone,

and stated that independent claims 1, 18, and 19 were allowable, but independent claims 3 and 20 were not allowable. The Examiner stated that claims 1, 18, and 19 overcame Henrikson with the element "a physical layer circuit serving as a physical interface without being given an identification number during the operation of the serial bus after the serial bus interface device is connected to the serial bus." The Examiner then asked whether the Applicant would like to amend claims 3 and 20 to include this element, or to continue prosecution on claims 3 and 20. The Examiner was asked to issue another Office Action, so that prosecution of claims 3 and 20 could continue.

Summary

By this Amendment, claims 3-4, 10-13, and 20 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Thus, claims 1-20 are pending, and are deemed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the claims and an early notice of allowance are earnestly and respectfully solicited.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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